

Message Text

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47-40

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

DHA-02 SCS-03 SY-05 OMB-01 SCA-01 /073 W

----- 129429

R 081130Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5016

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5174

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: CALL ON ACTING MINFONAFF PHOUNE SIPASEUTH

1. CALL ON ACTING MINFONAFF LASTED FORTY MINUTES AND COVERED THREE SUBJECTS: A) UAE AND RETURN OF COMPOUNDS (ON WHICH I LEFT NOTE); B) RETURN OF PRIVATE AND EMBASSY PROPERTIES; AND C) ROSEMARY CONWAY. RESULTS: ZERO-ZERO-ZERO.

2. WE WENT ON AT SOME LENGTH ON THE FIRST. PHOUNE HAD ONLY ONE SET ANSWER: UAE WORKED FOR USAID AND THEREFORE ALL ITS MATERIALS HAD TO BE TURNED OVER TO PGNU. ON THE SECOND, HIS ANSWER WAS THAT EVERYTHING ON USAID COMPOUNDS WAS USAID'S AND THEREFORE BELONGED TO PGNU. HE ALSO IMPLIED THAT WE WERE NOW ALLEGING THAT ALL MATERIALS WE HAD TURNED OVER BELONGED TO EMBASSY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE USAID FROM EMBASSY PROPERTIES, HE SAID. I STRESSED DIFFICULTY OF RELYING ON ASSURANCES FROM PGNU SINCE WE HAD BEEN ASSURED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN PAST WE COULD GET BACK THESE PROPERTIES. (THIS IS STRETCHING FACTS A BIT.) ON BOTH, HE SIMPLY CONCLUDED
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"WE HAD DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW" BUT FOR PGNU THESE

WERE MATTERS OF "PRINCIPLE."

3. ON THE THIRD, I REVIEWED INCARCERATION OF MS. CONWAY, OUR INABILITY TO SEE HER SINCE JUNE 11, THE DOCTOR'S FINDINGS, AND PRESSED FOR AN EARLY SOLUTION. HERE PHOUNE DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW HIS BRIEF AND ONLY COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER. I SOUGHT TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF CASE BY POINTING OUT THAT QUESTIONS WERE BEING INCREASINGLY RAISED IN WASHINGTON.

4. I DID MOST OF TALKING. I EXPRESSED SADNESS THAT I WAS LEAVING WITH THESE RELATIVELY SMALL MATTERS UNRESOLVED, PARTICULARLY SINCE WITH A LITTLE GOODWILL ON BOTH SIDES, SOLUTIONS COULD BE QUICKLY FOUND. I SAID THAT THESE PROBLEMS CONTRIBUTED TO THE POOR CLIMATE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. WE REGRETTED IT AS WE WISHED TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH LAOS. HE HARDLY ARGUED, BUT ONLY REITERATED ONE LINERS ABOUT USAID PROPERTY BELONGING TO PGNU AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. THERE WERE LONG SILENCES WHILE HE ABSORBED WHAT I WAS SAYING. HE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO ME IN FRENCH EXCEPT ON FEW OCCASIONS WHEN HE HAD HIS DEPUTY CHEF DE CABINET, SOUKTHAVONE KEOLA, TRANSLATE FROM LAO. IT WAS NOT A CHEERFUL SESSION, BUT HE SMILED WHENEVER HE SPOKE AND REPEATED DESIRE TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH U.S. HE DID NOT RAISE OTHER QUESTIONS ON AID OR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS.

5. I FEAR THAT MY FRIEND TOM CORCORAN, WHO ARRIVED THIS P.M., WILL BE EARNING HIS KEEP UNTANGLING THESE PROBLEMS AND ESTABLISHING A SOUNDER BASIS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH PGNU THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE SO FAR. CHAPMAN

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